

Inventor: Tsourikov
Serial No.: 09/991,079

Atty Docket: 41965-101 (IMCK-043)

Remarks

As stated above, the applicant appreciates the Examiner's thorough examination of the subject application and requests reconsideration of the subject application in view of the preceding amendments and following remarks. Claims 1-19 are pending; claims 1 and 12 are independent claims. No amendments have been made to the claims.

Rejections under 35 USC §103(a)

The office action rejects claims 1 – 4, 8 and 11-15 under 35 USC §103(a) as being obvious in view of Lamberti (U.S. Patent 5,377,103; hereinafter “Lamberti”). However, on closer inspection, Lamberti does not make the claims of the present invention obvious. For instance, Lamberti is directed toward a syntax-based query system. (See Lamberti col. 4, lines 4-34) Yet, the present invention is directed toward a semantic query system. Lamberti teaches a paraphrasing the natural language expression into a “goal-expression”, yet the present claims do not teach this.

For example, the syntactic system of Lamberti does not include the query elements A-O, S-A, S-X-O, or element S of, for example, independent claims 1 or 12.

Thus, since Lamberti is directed to ward a different (i.e., syntactic) system than the semantic system of claims 1 and 12, and for the above stated additional reasons, Lamberti does not make the present independent claims 1 and 12 obvious, nor its dependent claims 2-11 and 13-15, respectively. Thus, applicant requests allowance of claims 1 – 4, 8 and 11-15.

The office action also reject claims 5-7, 9-10 and 16-19 under 35 USC §103(a) in view of Lamberti and Johnson (U.S. Patent 5,748,974; hereinafter “Johnson”). However, these are each dependent claims. With the rejections to the corresponding independent claims 1 and 12, these claims are also allowable.

The total number of claims remains the same. Therefore, no additional claim fees are required with respect thereto. A request for a three month extension is also enclosed, pursuant to 37 CFR §1.136(a), with authorization to charge the below identified deposit account for related fees. The applicant respectfully asserts that the subject application is now in condition for allowance.

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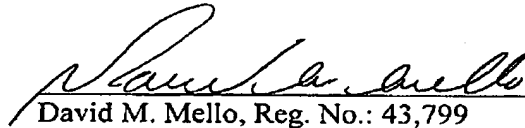
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Authorization is given to charge any other fees or charges or to make any refunds due to Deposit Account 50-1133.

If the Examiner believes there are any outstanding issues to be resolved with respect to the above-identified application, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at their earliest convenience so that such issues may be resolved telephonically.

Respectfully submitted,

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